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December, 1999

Bribers to Pay the Price

The highly-successful 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference took place in Durban in October against the background of the bribery scandal which arose in the context of the Lesotho-South Africa Highlands Water Project. An official from the project is presently before the courts in Lesotho, charged with accepting bribes of some US \$2million from no fewer than 12 international firms some of them world leaders in their field.

That the contract should attract scandal is perhaps unsurprising. It was a deal entered into between a military government (Lesotho) and the discredited apartheid regime (South Africa). A number of those providing finance were nervous about lending restrictions to the apartheid regime, and international institutions appear to have been reluctant to serve as vehicles with which to provide them comfort. Therefore, the financing share of the World Bank, for instance, is rather minor.

But the fact remains that these companies now face the real possibility of being blacklisted for their actions. Of course, any blacklisting should only take place after due process has been observed and the full facts revealed.

The period of any blacklisting, too, should reflect a considered view as to whether the bribes were paid as part of company policy or by maverick operators akin to the rogue Barings Bank trader, Nick Leeson. It is essential that the provisions for blacklisting be fairly followed. Bribers should not be afforded technical escape routes, and evade penalty by claiming that although their contract may have been part of a World Bank programme, the fact that the actual financing for their particular contract was not from Bank sources should not enable them to avoid the consequences of their deliberate actions.

There is now a very real test of will, and not only on the side of the World Bank. Some of the corporations involved are major players, and it is in their interest to co-operate with investigators, be frank about the role their employees and agents may have played, recognise that the international regime for cross-border corruption has drastically changed and show a determination to implement procedures that will minimise any reoccurrence.

Peter Eigen, Chairman, Board of Directors

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Special feature

The 1999 Corruption Perceptions Index and the new Bribe Payers Index

The 1999 Corruption Perceptions Index and the new Bribe-Payers Index, which accompanied it, were published in October to much media acclaim. The CPI this year ranked a total of 99 countries, more than ever before. The BPI, the latest TI tool, ranked 19 leading exporting countries in terms of the degree to which their firms are perceived to be paying bribes abroad. As well as three central simultaneous press conferences in Berlin, London and Washington, many National Chapters organised their own press conferences, most of which were extremely well-attended and resulted in extensive media coverage. The numerous media responses to the release demonstrated the excellent management of the conferences. The generally very positive feedback in the media illustrated the fact that the most active National Chapters were generally able to use the publicity the BPI/CPI generates to raise public awareness of the more troubling structural reasons for corruption. The reactions to the indices varied according to the circumstances of each country, and some examples of such reactions can be seen below.

The publication of the Indices led to a vastly increased traffic to the TI Website, with more than 50,000 hits a day in the few days following their release. Extensive information on the methodology of the two indices is available on the following websites: [CPI Q's & A's](#) and www.gwdg.de/~uwwv/

TI is shortly planning to publish an extensive report with the complete results of the Gallup International poll, which served as the basis of the BPI. This will also include a ranking of the industry sectors most likely to pay bribes abroad.

The BPI reveals that on a scale of 0 - 10, where 10 represents a corrupt-free exporting country, the best score among 19 leading exporting countries was 8.3, while the worst score, representing a great propensity to use bribes, was 3.1. China (including Hong Kong) was seen as having

1999 Transparency International Bribe Payers Index (BPI) Ranking 19 Leading Exporters

Rank	Country	Score
1	Sweden	8.3
2	Australia	8.1
	Canada	8.1
4	Austria	7.8
5	Switzerland	7.7
6	Netherlands	7.4
7	United Kingdom	7.2
8	Belgium	6.8
9	Germany	6.2
	United States	6.2
11	Singapore	5.7
12	Spain	5.3
13	France	5.2
14	Japan	5.1
15	Malaysia	3.9
16	Italy	3.7
17	Taiwan	3.5
18	South Korea	3.4
19	China (including Hong Kong)	3.1

While the BPI is a distinct survey commissioned by TI and conducted by Gallup International (GIA), the CPI is a poll of polls and the two indices are therefore created with quite different methodologies and are not directly comparable. They are to be viewed, however, as two sides of the same coin: while the BPI ranks the home countries of the payers of international bribes, the CPI ranks countries in terms of the degree to which they are perceived to be the homes of bribe-takers - public officials who abuse their office for personal gain.

the greatest willingness to pay bribes abroad, followed by South Korea, Taiwan, Italy and Malaysia. Sweden, Australia and Canada achieved the most favourable results.

The 1999 Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

1999 CPI Notes

1999 CPI Score - relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen by business people, risk analysts and the general public, and ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt).

Surveys Used - refers to the number of surveys that assessed a country's performance. Seventeen surveys were used and at least 3 surveys were required for a country to be included into the 1999 CPI.

Standard Deviation - indicates differences

Country Rank	Country	1999 CPI Score	Standard Deviation	Surveys Used
1	Denmark	10.0	0.8	9
2	Finland	9.8	0.5	10
3	New Zealand	9.4	0.8	9
	Sweden	9.4	0.6	10
5	Canada	9.2	0.5	10
	Iceland	9.2	1.2	6
7	Singapore	9.1	0.9	12
8	Netherlands	9.0	0.5	10
9	Norway	8.9	0.8	9
	Switzerland	8.9	0.6	11
11	Luxembourg	8.8	0.9	8
12	Australia	8.7	0.7	8
13	United Kingdom	8.6	0.5	11
14	Germany	8.0	0.5	10
15	Hong Kong	7.7	1.6	13
	Ireland	7.7	1.9	10
17	Austria	7.6	0.8	11
18	USA	7.5	0.8	10
19	Chile	6.9	1.0	9
20	Israel	6.8	1.3	9
21	Portugal	6.7	1.0	10
22	France	6.6	1.0	10
	Spain	6.6	0.7	10
24	Botswana	6.1	1.7	4
25	Japan	6.0	1.6	12
	Slovenia	6.0	1.3	6
27	Estonia	5.7	1.2	7
28	Taiwan	5.6	0.9	12
29	Belgium	5.3	1.3	9
	Namibia	5.3	0.9	3

Diverse reactions to index publication

Thanks to many National Chapters sending in feedback obtained from their national media and after an extensive Internet research, the TI-library collected around 500 clippings. Reactions to the indices varied according to the countries' specific situation:

Cameroon's Prime Minister Peter Mafany Musonge expressed surprise and deep frustration at his countries' ranking as the world's most corrupt for the second consecutive year. According to Reuters, he criticised TI saying that the index appeared to have ignored efforts by his government to uphold accountability.

in the values of the sources: the greater the standard deviation, the greater the differences of perceptions of a country among the sources.

31	Hungary	5.2	1.1	13
32	Costa Rica	5.1	1.5	7
	Malaysia	5.1	0.5	12
34	South Africa	5.0	0.8	12
	Tunisia	5.0	1.9	3
36	Greece	4.9	1.7	9
	Mauritius	4.9	0.7	4
38	Italy	4.7	0.6	10
39	Czech Republic	4.6	0.8	12
40	Peru	4.5	0.8	6
41	Jordan	4.4	0.8	6
	Uruguay	4.4	0.9	3
43	Mongolia	4.3	1.0	3
44	Poland	4.2	0.8	12
45	Brazil	4.1	0.8	11
	Malawi	4.1	0.5	4
	Morocco	4.1	1.7	4
	Zimbabwe	4.1	1.4	9
49	El Salvador	3.9	1.9	4
50	Jamaica	3.8	0.4	3
	Lithuania	3.8	0.5	6
	South Korea	3.8	0.9	13
53	Slovak Republic	3.7	1.5	9
54	Philippines	3.6	1.4	12
	Turkey	3.6	1.0	10
56	Mozambique	3.5	2.2	3
	Zambia	3.5	1.5	4
58	Belarus	3.4	1.4	6
	China	3.4	0.7	11
	Latvia	3.4	1.3	7
	Mexico	3.4	0.5	9
	Senegal	3.4	0.8	3
63	Bulgaria	3.3	1.4	8
	Egypt	3.3	0.6	5
	Ghana	3.3	1.0	4
	Macedonia	3.3	1.2	5
	Romania	3.3	1.0	6
68	Guatemala	3.2	2.5	3
	Thailand	3.2	0.7	12

Many Cameroonians, however, admit to massive corruption in the west African country. They talk about a long way to go for the government in tackling the problem.

In **Nigeria**, the government reacted favourably to the CPI which ranks the country in the second-worst position. President Olusegun Obasanjo called it a "challenge" that the present administration is facing and addressing energetically.

The **Kenyan** newspaper The Nation calls Kenya's low score "a damning judgement." At the same time, they assure TI that they "have only put in words and figures what we already know." The Malaysian Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik described the results of the BPI as ridiculous. He questioned the manner in

70	Nicaragua	3.1	2.5	3
71	Argentina	3.0	0.8	10
72	Colombia	2.9	0.5	11
	India	2.9	0.6	14
74	Croatia	2.7	0.9	5
75	Ivory Coast	2.6	1.0	4
	Moldova	2.6	0.8	5
	Ukraine	2.6	1.4	10
	Venezuela	2.6	0.8	9
	Vietnam	2.6	0.5	8
80	Armenia	2.5	0.4	4
	Bolivia	2.5	1.1	6
82	Ecuador	2.4	1.3	4
	Russia	2.4	1.0	13
84	Albania	2.3	0.3	5
	Georgia	2.3	0.7	4
	Kazakhstan	2.3	1.3	5
87	Kyrgyz Republic	2.2	0.4	4
	Pakistan	2.2	0.7	3
	Uganda	2.2	0.7	5
90	Kenya	2.0	0.5	4
	Paraguay	2.0	0.8	4
	Yugoslavia	2.0	1.1	6
93	Tanzania	1.9	1.1	4
94	Honduras	1.8	0.5	3
	Uzbekistan	1.8	0.4	4
96	Azerbaijan	1.7	0.6	5
	Indonesia	1.7	0.9	12
98	Nigeria	1.6	0.8	5
99	Cameroon	1.5	0.5	4

which the poll was conducted and the basis for arriving at such a conclusion.

In South Korea, Yonhap News (a news agency) reacted to the low 3.4 score of the country in the BPI. They prepared an instant opinion poll via internet and 90% of the 4601 respondents agreed with the rankings.

In Germany, the President of the Confederation of German Industries (BDI), Hans-Olaf Henkel said that many companies in Germany were still unaware of the new OECD Convention. He also called on the German government to exert greater pressure on all those OECD countries that still had not ratified the OECD Convention.



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December, 1999

TI Annual General Meeting

Strengthening capacities to curb corruption

TI Annual General Meeting -Strengthening capacities to curb corruption

This year's AGM took place in Durban, South Africa from 8-10 October 1999 and directly preceded the 9th IACC. With over 200 representatives from more than 70 countries, the 6th AGM reflected the growing diversity of Transparency International. It is this rapid expansion which Peter Eigen reflected upon when he pointed out that the ranks of TI's National Chapters, the true basis of this international movement, have increased from 60 to 77 in the last year (the exception being Pakistan which has had its accreditation withdrawn). Appropriately, therefore, the theme of this year's meeting - entitled "Strengthening Capacities to Curb Corruption" - was on consolidation. Particular attention was paid to the experience of National Chapters in various areas of capacity building as well the international tools that TI uses to fight corruption. Amongst the latter, the launch of the Bribe-Payers' Index (BPI) featured prominently. The demand for this was reflected in the controversy surrounding the CPI at the 1998 AGM. The movement welcomed the introduction of the BPI, especially delegates from the developing world who have been amongst the strongest critics of the CPI in the past. It was, however, the experience on a national level that provided chapters with models of how to approach the issue of capacity building, with workshops on safeguarding the credibility of the movement and on Fundraising for National Chapters receiving much interest as well as a workshop presenting the PACT- NGO Handbook for Advocacy NGOs. A further development during the past year has been the emphasis on the composition of the National Chapters and that these should represent a broad coalition. Many of the issues raised here have been reflected in previous editions of the Newsletter, such as the focus on gender and corruption in Zimbabwe, the creation of an island of integrity in the city of Bhaktapur (Nepal) and co-operative ventures between the National Chapter and the Business community in Canada. A new emphasis was also placed on the use of alternative media forms in raising public awareness, as displayed by the Kenyan Community Health Awareness Puppeteers (CHAPS) whose performance highlighted the role of the arts at a country level. The active members at the AGM, of whom the majority are for the first time nominated by National Chapters, were responsible for



electing new members to the board of directors to replace Valeria Merino Dirani, Oby K. Ezekwesili and Laurence Cockcroft. A signal of the movement's commitment to gender representativity was the election of María Eugenia Estenssoro from Argentina and the Colombian Rosa Inés Ospina. Furthermore, Devendra Raj Panday and John Githongo will bring their valued experience, from Asia and Africa respectively, to the board. TI-South Africa was warmly thanked for its contribution to this year's AGM, which is likely to be hosted next year by the Canadian National Chapter.

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The 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference

The state of the global anti-corruption movement and the dawning of a more complex phase in its work was in evidence at the 9th IACC in Durban, South Africa, which was sponsored by the Government of South Africa and the International Anti Corruption Conference (IACC) and organised by Transparency International (TI). The meeting, opened by South African President Thabo Mbeki, attracted more than 1,600 people from 135 countries. The participants all agreed on a joint Commitment, and the full Durban Commitment can be viewed at: http://www.transparency.org/iacc/durban_commitment.html UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and US Vice President Al Gore sent special messages to the conference. Top government and business leaders, courageous NGO leaders such as Wangari Maathai and international officials such as World Bank President James Wolfensohn and UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch-Brown, actively participated in Durban. The UNDP chief announced the launch of a major Partnership Fund for Transparency, to be run by TI and funded by UNDP and others to finance independent expert consultants in anti-corruption projects in developing countries. There is no doubt that the anti-corruption cause is genuinely on the map.

The Durban event was the scene of more than 40 workshops on everything from African, Asian, East European and other regional approaches to fighting corruption, to money laundering, transparency in public procurement, investigative journalism, business ethics, anti-corruption treaties, security and political party finance. The workshops and the conference generally provided a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and exchange experience.

The crucial test now is to see whether the new ideas and boldly declared initiatives, alongside the promises of reform, are more than just hot air. It will be uniquely civil society's role to hold the business and government leaders to account. For example, Wolfensohn described in intense detail a series of key initiatives being undertaken by the World Bank to secure major reforms in some of the poorest African countries. His speech was followed-up by a series of briefings by Daniel Kaufmann, the World Bank Institute's manager for governance, regulation and finance. But Wolfensohn and Kaufmann failed to detail just how their progress should be evaluated over time. Their bold course needs to be independently measured and monitored to determine if it is meaningful. The same holds



true for the programs announced by other multilateral agencies and national governments. Businesspeople claimed that the new OECD Anti-Bribery Convention will make a major difference in curbing bribery by international firms of public officials. The challenge to civil society now is to see if it is enforced and if there is compliance by corporations. The next IACC in 2001 will take place in Prague, Czech Republic and the 11th IACC is due to be hosted by Seoul, Korea, in 2003.



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International Organisations

IAP:

Prosecutors launch standing committee

At its annual meeting, held at the beginning of September '99 in Beijing, the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) decided to set up a standing committee on corruption. The intention is to develop draft model anti-corruption guidelines for dealing first with the supply side of bribery of foreign public officials, and later with the demand side. It was agreed that the IAP, which has members in the prosecution services of about 90 countries, should encourage the introduction and compliance with OECD convention principles. The organisation has already adopted standards of professional responsibility for prosecutors worldwide. Outline proposals of the IAP anti-corruption committee were presented to the 9th IACC held in Durban, South Africa, which TI co-organised.

Transparency International, 12 September 1999

Financial Action Task Force

Moneylaundering crackdown

Law enforcement experts are expected to agree this week on new measures to penalise countries that do not co-operate with them to fight moneylaundering. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which groups 26 large countries, is expecting to draw up a list of around 20 criteria to define non-co-operative countries at a meeting starting tomorrow in Portugal.

Financial Times, 20 September 1999

OECD:**Progress check on Anti-Bribery Convention**

The OECD monitoring procedure of Phase 1 (adaptation of national legislation) is well under way and is to be completed by the end of June 2000 when the next OECD Ministerial meeting will take place. 13 countries have already completed self-evaluations and been assessed by representatives of other countries for the consistency of their legislation with the Convention's legal requirements. TI's Working Group on the OECD Convention, co-ordinated by Fritz Heimann, Peter Rooke and Michael Wiehen, is contributing to the assessment process by organising TI submissions with the assistance of TI National Chapters. TI assessments have already been submitted for Canada, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Norway and South Korea and are in preparation for the countries to be reviewed in December 1999 and February 2000. The TI assessments have found significant deficiencies in some of the national legislation, ranging from the inadequacy of obscure U.K. legislation, to the restrictive provisions for monetary fines in Germany, to the excessively short 2-year limitation period for bringing a foreign bribery case in Norway. The next part of the monitoring procedure, Phase 2 (implementation), is due to begin in the second half of 2000 aiming to finish by 2005. This phase will involve assessments of the structures put in place to enforce national implementing legislation and the application of the laws and rules in practice. Transparency International will also be actively involved in this monitoring phase.

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The International Records Management Trust (IRMT)**Rights and Records Institute launched**

The IRMT has launched a "Rights and Records Institute". The Institute will serve the international information management community. Its mission is to empower developing country governments to manage recorded information in support of citizens' rights and to make public service delivery more efficient, cost effective and transparent. Official records (paper and electronic) need to be well managed, or the evidence needed to establish accountability and protect citizens' rights is at risk. The Institute will develop practical solutions to the challenges of modern information management facing governments around the world. Through its research and education programmes, it will seek to empower records professionals in the world's less wealthy nations to develop and apply meaningful solutions. A press pack with information about the work of the Rights and Records Institute and the IRMT are available upon request.

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IRMT Press Release, 8 November 1999

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The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the Group of Seven countries, issued a statement following their meeting on September 29, 1999 with the IMF Managing Director. This took place during the IMF annual meeting, which addressed a range of subjects including anti-corruption work. Regarding corruption, the text of the G7 statement calls for the IMF and the World Bank to identify ways to strengthen safeguards on the use of funds, especially in cases where there is a heightened risk of diversion or misappropriation of funds. They also proposed that more countries be encouraged to adopt anti-money laundering policies and measures and signalled their commitment to achieving full ratification and implementation of the OECD Convention.

AAA Project, www.respondanet.com

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Argentina: De la Rúa voted president

An "anti-Corruption" election campaign succeeded in rounding up support for Fernando de La Rúa, former Mayor of Buenos Aires, who won the presidential elections on October 24th, after a hard-fought campaign in which corruption was the central issue, next to unemployment. The President-elect will have to live up to the concrete pledges he has made to fight corruption when he assumes office on December 10th. During the election campaign, the TI National Chapter Poder Ciudadano invited the three main presidential candidates to publicly present the anti-corruption plans they would implement, should they be elected. Among the promises De la Rúa made on this occasion was the creation of an anti-corruption unit within the Ministry of Justice, which would be responsible for processing and dealing with corruption charges.

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El País (Spain), 20 October 1999; The Economist, 30 October 1999

Australia: OECD convention finally ratified

Australia ratified the OECD convention criminalising bribery of foreign public officials on 18 October this year. With a 60-day period before the ratification becomes effective, it will coincide with the entry-into-force of the Australian implementing legislation on 18 December 1999. Australia is the 18th out of the 34 signatories to deposit its instrument of ratification. Most of the others are well on the way to doing so. Other countries are likely to sign the convention soon, including South Africa which announced its intention in October. Legislation to end tax deductibility of bribes to foreign public officials has passed the House of Representatives and is due to be considered in the Senate soon. TI has made representations supporting an amendment, which was rejected by the government, that the opportunity should be taken to end tax deductions for bribes to Australian public officials at the same time.

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TI Australia, 18 October 1999

Australia: Integrity Commissioner for Queensland

Queensland Parliament has passed the amendment to the Public Services Ethics Act which means this will be Australia's first statutory Integrity Commissioner. This is to be somewhat similar to the federal Government's 'Ethics Counsellor' function (Howie Wilson) in Canada, and is to take effect immediately. Details will be on the Office of the Public Service Commissioner website soon. For more information, see: <http://www.opsc.gov.au> Office of the Public Service Commissioner, Australia

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Bosnia: Parliament approves anti-corruption measures

The legislature on 9 November approved a comprehensive anti-corruption plan put forward by the international community's Wolfgang Petritsch. Measures include establishing an independent judiciary, setting up tighter border controls, and making a survey of the change in officials' wealth between 1992 and the present. Observers note that corruption is rampant throughout Bosnia and is widely seen as a major stumbling block to post-war reconstruction and development.

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Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, November 1999

Colombia: Government and civil society fight corruption scourge

A new government plan aimed at fighting corruption has entered into force in Colombia. The "Subcomisión Interinstitucional de la Comisión de Moralización" in collaboration with the judicial authorities, is already investigating at least 483 cases reported by civil society. Over 16,000 were put forward on the national level. The commission operates on two levels: firstly, with the "Institutional Subcommittee" in charge of detecting corruption within public institutions, and the "Citizen Subcommittee", which allows citizens to come together in "Veedurías Ciudadanas", a control mechanism through which they can monitor the activities of public officials. President Andrés Pastrana has highlighted the importance of civil society's role in reporting corruption, which costs the national budget around US\$667mn every year, according to official statistics.

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Boletín de Prensa de la Presidencia de Colombia, 16 September/Agence France Presse, 17 September 1999.

Germany: New freedom of information act in Berlin

The state legislature of the city-state of Berlin has passed a Freedom of Information Act granting members of the public right of access to public files. Applicants will not have to give a reason when seeking access to the files. The law also has strict provisions on those files that may not be made public - there is a clearly defined, restrictive list of reasons for denial of disclosure and documents may only be withheld for three months. Next to Brandenburg, Berlin is only the second German state with freedom of information legislation (for more information see: <http://www.datenschutz-berlin.de/aktuelle/meldung/ifg.htm>). TI Germany has welcomed the new law and has also urged the state legislature of Schleswig-Holstein to adopt a similar bill currently before the parliament.

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Transparency International

Germany: International symposium in Potsdam on FOI

The German Federal State of Brandenburg recently hosted an International Conference on Freedom of Information and data Protection. An emphasis was placed on international experience in implementing such legislation with the USA, Canada, Japan and Russia featuring prominently as case studies. Brandenburg is the

only Federal State in Germany to have Freedom of Information legislation in place. Although draft legislation was discussed with civil society, this was only finally implemented following support from industry who were looking at settling in this former East German state.

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Transparency International

India:

Right to information emphasised Participants at a workshop on 'Right to Information, Censorship and Social Change' stressed that citizens should be able to enjoy access to official information from all public authorities and suggested that legislation be enacted for implementing this. Participating in the discussions at the workshop organised jointly by Namedia, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Madhyam and Action AidIndia, they said the right to information should include inspection, taking notes, extracts and obtaining certified copies of documents or records from any public authority. A draft bill on the right to information was also released in Bangalore.

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Deccan Herald (India), 30 October 1999

Indonesia:

New Cabinet set to retain links with past

New Indonesia President Abdurrahman Wahid warned yesterday that the new cabinet is likely to include personalities from the disgraced administrations of former presidents B. J. Habibie and Suharto. Wahid said that economic recovery was paramount in order to attract foreign capital and rebuild domestic confidence. The general public and foreign investors have long complained of unfair treatment by judges and civil servants for whom corruption is a way of life. Meanwhile, Dow Jones reports that Indonesia's new parliament has set up a committee to decide whether to publish the complete PricewaterhouseCoopers audit report of the Bank Bali corruption scandal. Indonesian House speaker Akbar Tanjung said the committee will comprise members of the parliament's legal and budget commissions. They will look at whether publishing the report would contravene bank secrecy laws and other policy issues.

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Development News, 25 October 1999

Indonesia:

Zero-tolerance on corruption

Indonesia's new President, Abdurrahman Wahid, has issued a stark warning to his government that ministers will be expected to resign if any evidence of corruption is found against them. President Wahid gave the warning as he led the swearing-in of his cabinet in the capital, Jakarta. With the elimination of sleaze a top priority for the new government, he said the attorney general would be authorised to investigate all ministers. Correspondents say Mr Wahid's own modest lifestyle should help reinforce the image of a government free of corruption.

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BBC News, 25 November 1999

Jamaica:**Refining procurement procedures**

A National Contracts Commission, chaired by former Contractor General Mr. Gordon Wells, was launched on 7 October this year. The new Commission will be in charge of overseeing the evaluation and award of government contracts, replacing the previous system under which a government committee and ministries awarded contracts. Prime Minister P.J. Patterson stated that the creation of the Commission was an important step towards greater transparency, accountability and efficiency in the public sector.

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Caribbean Insight, 15 October 1999

Japan:**Surprise bank inspections**

For the fourth time, Japan's Financial Supervisory Agency (FSA) has begun an unannounced inspection of a foreign bank doing business in Japan. The banking watchdog's target is Deutsche Bank and the US Bankers Trust group which has recently been taken over by the German bank. The FSA forms part of the Japanese government's efforts to improve its regulatory system. One of the earlier inspections concluded that Credit Suisse had obstructed FSA inspectors and conducted unsuitable trades. The FSA is now considering whether it should ask the Public Prosecutor's Office to press criminal charges against Credit Suisse employees.

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Financial Times, 27 August 1999

Kenya:**Moi slashes Ministries to appease IMF**

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi yesterday announced a major cabinet reorganization, slashing the number of ministries to 15 from 27 in a bid to streamline government and restore confidence in the economy. The number of ministers remains the same, however, with some departments having more than one head and the number of ministers of state in the President's office also increasing. The announcement is the second significant change since the appointment of Richard Leakey as Kenya's chief civil servant, alongside a "rescue team" of private sector managers and international civil servants. The reshuffle is seen as a clear statement ahead of meetings with the IMF and the World Bank in Washington in September, when Kenya will press for negotiations to launch its \$205 million Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility. The World Bank has long called for substantial cuts to the country's vast civil service, seen as a major contributor to Kenya's malaise. But the initial reaction from analysts and economists was skeptical, with some saying the number of ministers should also have been cut.

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Development News, World Bank, Washington, 7 September 1999

Kenya:**Anti-corruption authority starts work**

The process of recruiting investigators and prosecutors marks the start of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority (KACA). According to Attorney-general Mr. Amos Wako, the international community was happy with the government's commitment to reform and to the elimination of corruption, and that the World Bank and other international institutions had pledged their support for Kenya at the 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in Durban. He denied that prominent regime critics at the IACC had subjected Kenya to severe criticism over its bad performance and corruption within the government, stating that "it was among seven countries picked and named as shining examples of reform efforts".

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Daily Nation (Kenya), 24 October 1999

Malaysia:**Committee to check corruption**

The State government has formed a committee to check corruption, misuse of power and discrimination in Government services. Called the State Integrity Management Committee, it held its first meeting in early September, chaired by Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam to discuss its terms of reference. The Chief Minister's Department said committee members comprised heads of State and Federal Government departments and agencies. It was formed in response to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's call that all States form such a body to provide greater transparency and accountability in the management of Government affairs. Osu had told the committee that the public expected the Government to perform. He added that the committee would thoroughly look at all public complaints and ensure they were dealt with promptly and professionally. The Government, Osu said, wanted to ensure a clean administration and every level of management must not only be clean but also seen to be clean.

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The New Straits Time (Malaysia), 10 September 1999

Netherlands:**Clean green reports for sale**

The Dutch Minister of Environment Jan Pronk announced that companies who knowingly manipulate environmental studies would in future be blacklisted. This follows the publication of a report entitled "He who pays, decides" by the Rotterdam Police' department of "Serious Environmental Crime". The report investigated 30 cases over a two-year period focusing on the practice of laboratories, environmental officials, engineers, waste managers and local government. "Environmental Policeperson" Marianne van den Anker has drawn the conclusion that despite the numerous laws in place, the environment loses out when it comes to economic interests. To achieve this, tests are taken until the "ideal result" is found. In addition, flattering environmental reports are bought and poisonous waste products are "transformed" on paper in order to export these or make the treatment inexpensive. The Organisation of Dutch Engineers (ONRI) responded by labelling the report

"very suggestive".

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Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), 23/24 October 1999

**New Zealand:
OECD Convention bill introduced**

The long awaited Crimes Amendment Bill, implementing the OECD anti-corruption convention in New Zealand, was introduced into Parliament yesterday. The section on bribery of foreign officials is very straightforward; all bribes (i.e. payments over US\$25 or in some cases US\$100) to foreign public officials become a crime punishable by up to 7 years' imprisonment. The bill proposes extraterritoriality, i.e. that the act applies to bribes paid by New Zealanders, when that person is in another country. As the Crimes Amendment bill has just been introduced, it is most unlikely to be considered by a select committee before the election in November. An official from the Inland Revenue Department has hinted that it is also the Government's intention to remove tax deductibility for bribes and facilitation payments.

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TI New Zealand, 2 September 1999

**Nigeria:
Auditing Nigerian oil**

Nigerian National Petroleum (NNP) announced that it had invited the World Bank to audit its accounts, which had not been made public for years. Foreign creditors view this independent audit of NNP's notoriously murky books as a key condition for relief on Nigeria's debts of more than US\$30bn.

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Business Report, 19 October 1999

**Nigeria:
Cleaning up oil**

Jackson Gaius-Obaseki, new Director of the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation began a sweeping reform of the company immediately following his appointment in May 1999. Oil majors say that, currently, the NNPC shake-up seems to be working. A professional career structure, eroded by politicisation of the company and influence-peddling, has been re-established. There is a "mission statement" and a code of conduct, including a formal warning that anyone caught accepting a bribe will be instantly dismissed, while substantial incentives (based on merit and technical qualifications) are offered to professionals. All transactions are monitored by auditors for signs of leakage or corrupt side-payments. Three troubleshooters are cracking down on corruption in exports of refined products. This month, 16 new one-year trading contracts started up under new rules which limit crude sales to 'bona fide end- users' or 'large volume traders with a minimum annual turnover of at least US\$100mn. Bidders had to show a commitment to the Nigerian economy and traders' profit margins were reduced. The reforms have been furiously opposed by soldiers, politicians and foreign traders cut out of the commission business.

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Africa Confidential, 22 October 1999

Pakistan:
Coup leader vows to try 'plunderers'

Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervaiz Musharraf promised to speedily bring the corrupt former ruling elite to justice. The government would set up courts to try the "plunderers of national wealth", and Nawaz Sharif, the deposed Prime Minister, would face trial, he said. Accordingly "accountability will start from the top and run across the board." The army will set up a National Accountability Bureau, which will force 322 families who have borrowed and defaulted on more than £2.1bn. He said Pakistan's chief justice had agreed to constitute speedy trials courts which will try defaulters through the existing legal system.

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Daily Telegraph (UK), 2 November 1999

Pakistan: Promotion of accountability

In his first encounter with the Press, Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf identified the revival of the economy, the removal of provincial disharmony and depoliticisation of national institutions as his government's top priorities. "Without these four basic elements there can be no economic revival," he added. The General said that there would be an across-the-board accountability, which would start from the top, and no section of the society would enjoy immunity from it. For liability the General announced the formation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and trial courts which would ensure speedy accountability.

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The Nation (Pakistan), 2 November 1999

Switzerland/Ukraine:
Investigators freeze assets

Swiss investigators acting on a U.S. request have frozen around 20 bank accounts believed to belong mainly to Ukraine's ex-Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, whom they have indicted on money-laundering charges. Since last year, Swiss authorities have also frozen more than US\$20mn in some 40 bank accounts allegedly belonging to Lazarenko, as part of a separate money-laundering probe in Switzerland. Geneva magistrate Laurent Kasper-Ansermet said. "The investigation is continuing and widening. The difficulty now is defining precisely the source of the money and establishing the criminality of the funds that have been frozen". Switzerland made it obligatory for banks and non-bank financial institutions to report suspicious transactions to the authorities and freeze the funds under a new money-laundering law in force since April 1998. Swiss investigators suspect Lazarenko profited from natural gas contracts when he was energy minister. He is also suspected of profiting from dealings with state enterprises when he was premier for a year from June 1996.

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Reuters, 22 September 1999

Switzerland:**Bank secrecy law will not be lifted**

Switzerland is determined to resist growing foreign pressure to combat tax evasion by foreign nationals who use Swiss bank accounts to avoid paying domestic taxes. A senior Swiss official stressed that the country's bank secrecy law would not be lifted to help foreign tax authorities fight tax evasion. Among the pressuring institutions are the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to cooperate in the fight against international tax evasion. Jacques de Watteville, head of the Swiss foreign ministry's economic and financial affairs division, stressed that Switzerland had lifted its bank secrecy laws to help foreign investigators combat tax fraud, but this did not apply in the case of tax evasion because it was not a crime in Switzerland.

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Financial Times, 10 September 1999

South Africa:**Website lists arms sales abroad**

In a bold move towards transparency in the contentious area of arms sales, the South African government has published details of its sale of arms to 83 countries over the past three years on a free-access web site. Although it does not specify the types of weapons, it gives details of four categories in which sales took place. The Minister of Defence Mosiuoa Lekota said the government did not conclude arms deals with foreign countries but contracts were concluded by the defence industries directly concerned once the government had given them authorisation. In terms of the regulatory procedures specified by the National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC), industry is required to apply to the NCACC before entering into a contract with a foreign party. "Based on export information for 1996, 1997 and 1998 which is available internationally on the defence web site at www.mil.za, contracts were concluded with 83 foreign countries," Lekota said. The NCACC web site could well be the first in the world and the most transparent in the often murky world of arms dealing.

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The Mail & Guardian (South Africa), 1 October 1999

U.K.:**Moneylaundering crackdown**

Law enforcement experts are expected to agree this week on new measures to penalise countries that do not cooperate with them to fight moneylaundering. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which groups 26 large countries, is expecting to draw up a list of around 20 criteria to define non-cooperative countries at a meeting starting tomorrow in Portugal.

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Financial Times, 20 September 1999

U.K.:**Rights and Records Institute launched**

The International Records Management Trust (IRMT) has launched a "Rights and Records Institute". The Institute will serve the international information management community. Its mission is to empower developing country governments to manage recorded information in support of citizens' rights and to make public service delivery more efficient, cost effective and transparent. Official records (paper and electronic) need to be well managed, or the evidence needed to establish accountability and protect citizens' rights is at risk. Records created electronically are far more vulnerable than paper records to deliberate abuse, accidental loss and technical obsolescence. The Institute will develop practical solutions to the challenges of modern information management facing governments around the world. Through its research and education programmes it will seek to empower records professionals in the world's less wealthy nations to develop and apply meaningful solutions. A press pack containing more information about the work of the Rights and Records Institute and the IRMT are available upon request. Contact:

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International Records Management Trust

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7831 4101

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7831 7404

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<http://www.irmt.org>

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IRMT Press Release, 8 November 1999

United States:**Treasury acts to curb money laundering**

The US Treasury has issued a regulation requiring companies provide a wide range of cash-related services to register with its special financial crimes unit. The new rule will tighten US anti-money laundering controls on all companies collectively known as money service business MSB (excluding banks). Treasury officials said the move was part of a broader commitment to crack down on money laundering and further regulations relating to MSBs would be issued later. Special monitoring programmes in New York and Puerto Rico had found that some MSBs were breaking up large cash transactions to shift drug money to Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

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Financial Times, 19 August 1999

Zimbabwe:**Anti-corruption Commission to be established**

Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) is co-operating with the government in establishing an independent anti-corruption commission. "TIZ will work with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the police commissioner for the establishment of this agency", said John Makumbe, the chairman of TIZ. In a country

where corruption has reached a "disproportionate proportion" only the establishment of an anti-corruption commission would curb this problem, he said. Mr. Makumbe called for a national audit of the government's management systems so as to weed out corruption and increase transparency in Zimbabwe, ranked 45th in Transparency International's 1999 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). "We must draw up a register of corruption-inclined private sector companies and expose them and banish them from doing business with government", he suggested. He also took a swipe at government for failing to act on known cases of corruption. "We have seen people involved in corrupt activities going scot-free. The War Victims Compensation Fund was looted but very few people were prosecuted", he said, and added "What image are we portraying for our country?"

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Zimbabwe Mirror, 29 October 1999

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TI National Chapters and Country Activities

For the first time ever, a workshop for the Middle East and North African countries was held at the IACC, and was organised by Sion Assidon, Head of Transparency Maroc. There had previously been no such regional workshop at any of the past IACCs, and this was very well attended by participants from all over the Arab world, and from all sectors, including those from government, the business community and civil society generally. As a result of this meeting, a group, founded by individuals from the Arab countries, came up with the Durban Initiative.

The group was born on 14th October, 1999, during the 9th IACC. The signatories of the Durban Initiative expressed their will to remain in close contact and to work together to implement the objectives of the 'Initiative' in fighting corruption.

They also recognised the need to build the widest possible coalition between the NGOs, the press, the private sector, and everyone within and outside the Arab countries interested in fighting corruption in this part of the world. The electronic mailing and discussion forum "Chafafia" (Arabic for "Transparency") is one of the first manifestations of such co-operation.

In **Bangladesh**, Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal gave a powerful speech in a daylong seminar on corruption in public administration held by TI Bangladesh. He called for corruption not to be fought by surveillance from above, but to emerge from within by developing an educational system with a strong religious ethos. He invited TI Bangladesh to carry out the surveys needed for this matter. His speech was headline news in most national newspapers and was broadcast by the BBC World Service. Further sessions, held by high level governmental representatives led to the conviction that watchdog bodies, like the Bureau of Anti Corruption, should be supported in fighting corruption in public administration. To this end, electing an ombudsman is necessary, as is the need for proper utilisation of the various Parliamentary Standing Committees.

TI Bangladesh

The **Bolivian** Chapter in Formation, EQUIDAD, organised two workshops aimed at strengthening the participation of civil society and political parties in the national debate on corruption. One of the focuses of the

workshops, which took place on September 29-30 with the support of the UNDP and TI Colombia, was the government's anti- corruption "Integrity Plan", launched in 1998. Although civil society had participated in this government initiative, it was clear that a platform for debate on the issue within civil society needed to be created. In the first workshop, it was argued that existing social control groups, namely "Comités de Vigilancia", have not realised their full potential as monitors, and the need was identified to re- examine and reorient their current practices. In the second workshop, participants expressed the need to restore the credibility of political parties, as well as revising Article 53 of the Political Constitution, which excludes social sectors from full participation while granting political representation exclusively to the political parties.

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Transparencia Brasil has been formed following the visit of Miguel Schloss to Brazil in June, and the coming together of a group of civil society organisations, academics, and members of the business sector. With its headquarters in Sao Paulo, this newly-formed entity represents a wide range of social sectors and geographical regions. TCC-Brasil will remain the group's representation in Brasilia.

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A workshop run by **TI Chile** on transparency for public officials took place in Santiago on September 1-4. The workshop, organised in collaboration with FORJA, TI's National Chapter in Chile, was attended by over 30 public officials representing numerous government institutions and public services. The aim of the workshop was to encourage civil servants and public officials to create and identify tools for combating irregularities and corruption in public administration. With the methodological orientation provided throughout the three-day course by experts in the field of justice, economy, administration and ethics, participants worked in groups to develop proposals to fight and prevent corruption in their institutions. A full report on the workshops is being prepared by FORJA.

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The **Colombian** government has signed the first Integrity Pact in August, thanks to the advice and assistance by the TI National Chapter. The Public tender in question concerns a contract with the telecommunications company COMPARTEL, worth around US\$80mn, and involves the running of 6,500 community telephone centres in rural areas throughout the country. The current government of President Andrés Pastrana has expressed a strong willingness to collaborate with Transparency International, in order to implement Integrity Pacts on a national scale. TI Colombia is currently assisting the government with various privatisation, concession and direct investments processes. The National Chapter also hosted an international workshop in September, in order to analyse and disseminate the methodologies of the TI Integrity Pact. Participants were mainly drawn from Colombian organisations. They also included representatives of six regional chapters interested in this issue or who have started to work on Integrity Pacts. A simultaneous workshop took place on Public Hearings, which aimed to analyse the possibility of involving civil society more in public decision making.

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In **Ghana**, a TI-associated group, the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), is planning to hold its launch in Accra on December 6, 1999. Interim Chairman of the GII Board of Governors is Justice Francis Emile Short, who is also

the Commissioner in charge of Ghana's Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ).

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The **Gambian** TI chapter held its first public meeting on 11 September, 1999 to explain the work of Transparency International.

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TI Germany organised a conference entitled "The Transparent Public Official", in conjunction with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Berlin. The conference was the third in a series on corruption in Germany and examined the role that both transparency in the public service and access to information play in the fight against corruption. The necessity of this debate was underlined by the fact that Germany and the United Kingdom are the only two countries that have no effective national legislation governing access to information. The meeting comprised two sessions which focused on current debates on the issue and dealt with Access to Information as a Civil Right and Access to Information and Civil Society. Over 120 of the participants signed the Berlin Declaration, produced on the occasion of the conference, calling for transparency in the public service and effective Freedom of Information legislation, a measure which the current red/green coalition government undertook to implement after taking office. The meeting, with a closing address from Peter Eigen (TI Chairman) was followed by the TI-Germany AGM.

Transparency International

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In Piraeus, **Greece**, the newly elected Mayor of the municipality asked TI Greece to work with him to come up with a comprehensive set of measures to make his city more transparent. At the end of October, TI Greece - with assistance from the TI Urban Co-ordinator Michael Lippe- embarked on a study of the operations of the Municipality of Piraeus and has presented its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the Municipality Council. The process designed will involve not only TI, but also other civil society organisations as full partners.

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TI has established a new contact in **Egypt**, Dr Azza Al-Khamissy. It should be noted that Mr Hassan Eissa, Mr Saad Eddin Ibrahim and the Ibn Khaldoun Centre in Cairo are no longer TI partners. Please amend your mailing lists accordingly, and delete Hassan Eissa and Saad Eddin Ibrahim from any Transparency International-related list.

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TI India's sister organisation, Lok Sevak Sangh, has for the last 30 years campaigned for the enactment of suitable legislation for Lok Pal, the federal ombudsman. For the last three decades, the bill was supposed to be enacted, but this never took place. On 16 October, however, Prime Minister Vajpayee said that the first

legislation to be introduced in Parliament would be the Lok Pal Bill with the aim of dealing severely with corruption, checking it at the highest levels. TI India was at the forefront of this campaign. As a result of the continuing failure of the government to introduce an ombudsman, they set up a People's Lok Pal (Ombudsman Commission), in March 1999.

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The **Malaysian** National Chapter, the Kuala Lumpur Society for Transparency, has urged its government in "The Star", Malaysia, to support the adoption of the WTO Agreement on corruption at the Ministerial Conference, which runs from 30 November to 3 December. The draft of the WTO focuses on transparency and argues that no politically sensitive changes to countries' market access rules are required. It provides for fair competition arrangements, the publication of relevant procurement regulations, reduced opportunities for corruption and a general consistency with multilateral development bank guidelines. By adopting a binding WTO agreement, the Malaysian press release predicts enormous benefits to be made by both the government and business community, in the form of constructive competition. The Kuala Lumpur Society for Transparency therefore calls particularly on the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to support the WTO endorsement at the regional (APEC) and at the global level at its Ministerial Conference.

TI Malaysia

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Malaysian Chapter surveys political parties

The Kuala Lumpur Society for Transparency and Integrity carried out a survey entitled "Polling Political Parties" aiming to encourage political parties to take a clear stand in combating corruption, in view of the forthcoming elections. The poll was sent out to 19 registered political parties in Malaysia to record their responses to issues of transparency and accountability. In spite of much effort to remind and encourage the parties to respond, only four parties replied, clearly stating their positions on issues of transparency and accountability through "Yes" and "No" answers. Of the four parties to respond, PAS (Islamic Party of Malaysia) and Parti Keadilan Nasional (National Justice Party) scored full points, answering "Yes" to all 28 questions. Both parties will receive The Society's Transparency and Integrity Certificate of Honour for supporting moves to promote transparency and accountability. The remaining respondents were PRM (the Malaysian People's Party) and DAP (the Democratic Action Party). The questions asked covered a range of issues, ranging from the parties' position on declaration of assets, the independence of the Anti-Corruption Agency, political party funding, transparency in government procurement, economic reform, freedom of information and constitutional and legal issues. Further information is available at: transmal@yahoo.com

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TI-Mauritius launched a Website at the end of August which can be accessed through TI 's overall Website or at www.transparencymauritius.intnet.mu. The Mauritius Citizen's Charter, which was launched at the same time with very positive feedback from both the media and the general public, has been made available on the website. It is presented in the form of a 16-page guide entitled "No to Corruption, yes to Integrity" targeting all citizens, students, managers, public sector officials and parliamentarians. 60, 000 copies of this booklet both in French and in English were printed and disseminated all over the country in an attempt to sensitise the population at all levels to the fight against corruption.

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The **Netherlands**, with one of the most active NGO sectors in Europe, recently saw the launch of a TI Chapter. A meeting consisting of representatives of a broad spectrum of Dutch society established TI Netherlands on 28 September 1999. The meeting, which elected Edward Kimman as Chairperson, was held at a Museum on the premises of the Dutch Central Bank. The launching of a chapter has been welcomed particularly as the Dutch government and members of the Chapter contributed to the establishment of TI in 1993.

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A **TI Nepal** members' delegation led by its President, Dr. Devendra Raj Panday, met the Prime Minister Mr. K. P. Bhattarai on 15 September to acquaint him with TI's mission and to frame the Government's plans to contain corruption. Among the main issues were institutional and legal reforms, such as raising the effectiveness of the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee and of the Centre for Investigation of Abuse of Authority, as well as amending laws related to controlling corruption and declaration of property. Further, discussion was held regarding the inclusion of the anti-corruption issue in the SAARC summit's agenda, for which Nepal as summit host had a major responsibility. A letter from TI Chairman Peter Eigen raising this issue was submitted to the Prime Minister, who expressed his commitment towards fighting corruption and supporting TI Nepal's activities and programmes.

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Oslo, Norway, was recently host to a two day seminar titled "Frameworks for Sustainable Corruption Control" (21-22 October 1999). The seminar organised by Transparency International in conjunction with the Norwegian Aid and Development Agency (NORAD) drew over 100 participants and focused on developing countries and the aid process. Speakers included Hilde F. Johnson, Norwegian Minister of International Development and Human Rights and TI chairman Peter Eigen. Both the presentations and resulting debate received broad coverage in the local press. The goodwill fostered through this event is to be followed up with a meeting in Oslo on 30 November 1999 to launch TI Norway.

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TI Romania launched the Romanian Association for Transparency - ART on 14 September 1999, and the launch was attended by Miklos Marschall and Sara Morante. The event took place at the beautiful and historical Elisabeta Palace and was very well attended by local and international press and by representatives of the Romanian Government and donors. Miklos Marschall opened the conference by introducing TI and warmly welcoming TI Romania into the movement, Sara Morante spoke briefly about the role of TI NCs and Mr.

Caliiöiu presented TI Romania. TI Romania's approach is innovative in that it focuses on prevention and reform rather than on repression and criminal prosecution. Mr. Caliiöiu made a clear distinction between the competences of institutional bodies, police, journalists and that of civil society. He explained that TI Romania would support all these to help them improve the quality of their work and strengthen the integrity of the system. We were impressed by the interest and by the intensive discussions that followed. Information on the structure and planned activities of TI Romania is available at its website: www.transparency.ro

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TI USA co-sponsored, together with the American University Washington College of Law and the Inter-American Bar Association, an Experts Roundtable on Combating Corruption. It was an opportunity for leading anti-corruption experts from across the hemisphere to meet in Washington D.C. on November 11-12, 1999 to determine what action is needed to promote meaningful compliance with the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. To date, only 17 of the 34 OAS members have ratified the Convention and implementation has been lagging. The experts recommended prompt ratification of the Convention by countries that have not done so, such as the US and Brazil, and for parties that have ratified to participate in a multilateral peer review mechanism in order to achieve effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention. Miguel Scholass, TI's Executive Director for Latin America and the Caribbean added "overcoming civil society's skepticism about the Convention requires prompt multilateral action by OAS members. Participation in a peer review process can be a sound way to give the Convention teeth".

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TI Zimbabwe conducted a snap survey which revealed that politicians topped the list of the most corrupt people, followed by customs officials, indigenous business people and police officers. Foreign business people, councillors and civil servants also scored highly, while teachers were said to be least corrupt. Generally, men were perceived to be more corrupt than women. According to a senior police officer who was invited as a guest speaker to a workshop TIZ held on corruption in Nyanga, corruption cuts across all sectors of society. It takes various forms, including white-collar crime, organised crime, economic crime, or money laundering. He stressed the need for an anti-corruption mission that could effectively investigate all corrupt activities, thus helping to combat the "cancer of corruption".

The Insider (Zimbabwe), June 1999

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A sample of corruption cases from around the world

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Africa

Cameroon: Funds Missing: Magistrates Suspended

The rector of the University of Douala has reported in an interview that for the last seven months FCFA 3000 million (US \$4.8 million) "have gone to an unknown destination" and have not been used for the functioning of the university. He has instituted an investigation and is strengthening control systems. At the same time, the mayor of Pete claimed that FCFA100 million released by the public authorities for rural projects; for the construction of educational establishments, water systems and health centres as well as other micro-projects had never reached their destination. The governor of the province in question has promised sanctions., which were taken against ten members of the judiciary. It is thought that their decisions, in some cases, were tainted by corruption.

Dikalo (Cameroon), 10 May 1999

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Egypt:

Mubarak stays but radical reforms demanded

President Hosni Mubarak was re-elected to a fourth six-year term in a simple yes or no referendum where Egyptians had to vote whether or not to return a sole candidate. Apparently 94% of the voters marked "yes". There is nevertheless widespread feeling that Egypt's political system is due for an overhaul; the ruling National Democratic Party, which has dominated the country's parliament for two decades, is increasingly tainted by corruption; opposition parties are crippled by in-fighting and by legal restrictions on their activity. Though endorsing Mubarak's candidacy, the four main opposition parties along with dozens of leading intellectuals, have circulated a petition demanding "radical constitutional and political reform". The document proposes abolishing emergency laws and restrictions on the formation of political parties and trade unions, giving the press greater freedom, providing better electoral safeguards and allowing direct, multi-candidate presidential elections. Even pro-government voices have demanded that the ruling party should clean house, that ministers should be selected for their ability rather than their loyalty and that the 1971 constitution, which defines Egypt as a socialist state, should be modified to reflect new realities.

The Economist (UK), 2 October 1999; 16 October 1999

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Malawi:

Corruption costs precious aid

For a country whose development is largely reliant on foreign aid, corruption poses a serious threat. In 1994 the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) was established by an act of parliament in order to win donor support, which waned after the former government of Dr. Banda siphoned billions of dollars off to foreign banks. But donors have again lost faith in the government after corruption reached extremely high levels, with Ministers being involved in scandals. The government hence plans to require President, Cabinet ministers, other top government officials, and now Members of parliament, to declare their assets soon after being appointed to office. But lawyers are dissatisfied, demanding the establishment of a policing mechanism for the law to effectively follow up on the declarations. Many people have also expressed disappointment with the ACB. Although it gathered evidence of corruption by prominent persons, it is unable to prosecute them. This raises fears that the bureau, whose director is appointed by the president, was only created to deceive donors. Its director, however, defends the body. "The bureau does not take instructions from any authority. In fighting corruption operational independence is a key element of success", he said.

New People Feature Service (Kenya), 1 August 1999

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Nigeria/Switzerland:

Swiss freeze Abacha bank accounts

Switzerland has frozen bank accounts belonging to Sani Abacha, the late Nigerian dictator, members of his family as well as his business associates. The Swiss federal office for police matters said yesterday that accounts at four banks in Geneva and one in Zurich are no longer accessible due to the request of the Nigerian government. To confirm the order, Nigeria must make a formal request within three months. The Geneva law firm acting for the Obasanjo government said the Nigerian authorities had evidence that more than US\$2.2 bn had been stolen from the country's central bank by General Abacha and his circle.

Financial Times, 15 October 1999

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Sierra Leone: City Council exposed Members of the Freetown City

Council Management Committee have been exposed as part of a fraud syndicate that has defrauded the institution of billions of Leones, according to the Council's Audit Report. One of the members manipulated records through printing revenue receipt books and other documents used to ensure accountability. Inflation of proforma invoices and double-invoicing were also used to manipulate revenues, notwithstanding recommendations of a World Bank team intended to ensure transparency and accountability. "In fact, the computer installed to ensure transparency and accountability was manipulated and it soon disappeared mysteriously", according to a senior Freetown City Council official.

For the People (Sierra Leone), 30 August 1999

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Southern Africa:

Amnesty International's annual human rights report pointed to the deteriorating quality of policing in southern Africa as a major trend in the region. There had been a number of cases where political killings were traced back to police. Particularly in Zambia, there had been widespread instances of torture and ill treatment by the police. The quality of the justice system continued to cause concern. Andrew Kelso, Amnesty's director of media relations, pointed to the relationship between the effectiveness of the justice system and the "professionalism of the police force". In countries like Zimbabwe and Namibia, involvement in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo had also resulted in a greater clamp-down on the freedom of expression.

UN Integrated Regional Information Network, 24 June 1999

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Uganda: Anti-poverty fight threatened by graft

Participants at a workshop on Uganda's economy have praised the country's anti-poverty drive but expressed concern that rampant corruption and poor infrastructure could erode future gains. "Uganda managed to achieve one of the fastest growth rates in the world", said Paul Collier, World Bank Director of research. "On average, the poor in Uganda have benefited more than is normal in such cases," he added. James Adams, World Bank country director, however, stated: "There is concern from the donor community that the fight against corruption is not being given more emphasis". Analysts highlighted the importance of future foreign investment to stimulate the economy and alleviate poverty. They also expressed their concern that corruption was a major disincentive to attracting foreign capital.

Reuters, 28 October 1999

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Zambia: Mines privatisation lacks transparency

The government has proposed selling some loss-making assets of Zambia's Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM). Local analysts criticised this, although in a statement to IRIN, the pro-debt cancellation group Jubilee 2000 welcomed the sale of the mines, as these had become a strain on government finances. It expressed disappointment, however, at what it called a low price for the sale. Jubilee 2000 also objected to the lack of transparency in the privatisation process: "The largest public property is being sold off without people understanding what is happening." It added that the exclusion of other civil society groups, like trade unions and opposition parties, from the privatisation process had compromised the levels of transparency and accountability required of the government in handling public assets and resources. It was critical of the proceeds of the sale being used towards debt servicing or "fattening individual's pockets", demanding that "funds from the sale of public entities should go towards developmental programmes to benefit the majority of citizens."

UN Integrated Regional Information Network, 8 November 1999

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Zimbabwe: Mugabe admits cabinet is corrupt

President Mugabe for the first time publicly admitted that his regime was corrupt. At the opening of Parliament, Mugabe accused his Cabinet ministers of accepting bribes from businessmen in exchange for state contracts. "I know that they are buying you for tenders and that some of you are accepting huge bribes" he was quoted. In a remarkable personal revelation of despair over Zimbabwe's economic downslide, he continued by questioning the Ministers' strength of morality and blamed them for "not doing my words honour". "Let's try to protect our personal integrity and that of our Government", Mugabe demanded in an appeal to his minister's better natures. Despite overwhelming evidence of corruption in the independent press and the Government's own investigations, no senior official in Zimbabwe has so far been punished.

The Times (UK), 22 July 1999

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Americas

Brazil:

Sao Paulo State Bank fined for irregularities

Banespa's privatisation has been thrown into disarray by the Brazilian tax department's decision to fine the Sao Paulo state bank US\$1.52bn for accounting irregularities. The Banespa sale was to be the highlight of next year's privatisation programme, but local media quoted Carlos Eduardo de Freitas, a central bank director, as saying the bank will now be sold before June 2000. The federal tax department says Banespa had illegally deducted from its tax bill the provisions it was making to capitalise its employees' pension fund. The bank began making the deductions in 1987 and continued after the central bank took control in 1994 as part of a rescue mission.

Financial Times, 18 September 1999

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Honduras/ Nicaragua:

A year after Mitch: corruption stalls reconstruction

Aid projects aimed at relieving the plight of the victims of last year's Hurricane Mitch are suffering serious setbacks due to corruption. Oxfam International and the IMF have both sharply criticised government institutions in Honduras and Nicaragua for a lack of transparency. In a report published by Oxfam, Amado Ordonez stresses the importance of civil society playing a role in the auditing of disaster relief funds pouring into the region. Ordonez claims that Hurricane Mitch has made some people quite rich in Central America, while no significant progress has been made with reconstruction.

NOTIMEX (Mexico), 25 September 1999; La Prensa (Nicaragua), 29 October 1999

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Nicaragua:

Arrest of Comptroller-General causes widespread concern

Agustín Jarquín Anaya, the Comptroller-General of Nicaragua, was arrested in Managua on 10 November, causing widespread concern among civil society groups, public sector institutions and the media both at home and abroad. Mr Jarquín, who enjoys an excellent reputation for fighting high-level corruption, has been accused of creating a "ghost worker" on the payroll of the Comptroller's Office in order to cover the cost of investigations of ex TV-presenter Danilo Lacayo into corruption within the Presidency. Representatives of European Union member states, Norway and Switzerland, have issued a joint statement indicating that the imprisonment of Mr Jarquín could have a "deep impact on the governability of the country". Transparency International has called for a fair and prompt trial of Mr. Jarquín Anaya. "While we cannot, of course, express an opinion on this particular case, in many parts of the world there has been a disturbing pattern of false accusations made against officials seen by their public to be fighting corruption in high places", said TI Executive Director Miguel Schloss.

Transparency International

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Asia and Pacific

China: Farmers' anti-corruption initiative

Twenty farmers were reportedly detained in the southwest city of Chongqing for distributing democracy flyers and forming an anti-corruption organisation. The Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said the farmers were detained in late July and early August. Ten were formally arrested for subversion and face jail sentences of more than 10 years. The other 10 could be sent to labour camps, the centre said.

Far Eastern Economic Review, 10 September 1999

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India: Development Authority faces corruption allegations

K J Alphons, one of India's best-known corruption fighters, is quoted in the World Bank's recent 'World Development Report 1999/2000'. He had described his employer, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) as 'the most corrupt institution in the country'. DDA would accept bribes for allowing unauthorised buildings on government land, which would then be sold to unwitting buyers. Moreover, Alphons reports, nothing gets built - legally or illegally - without a bribe. The Bank states, however, that many developing cities are suffering from similar housing problems. There are huge gaps between the number of houses which are needed and those which are finally permitted.

India Abroad News Service, 16 September 1999

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Indonesia: World Bank withholds aid

The World Bank has threatened to withhold economic assistance to Indonesia over a burgeoning multimillion-dollar banking scandal. The Bank Bali paid a "commission fee" of nearly US\$80mn for recouping interbank loans. This fee was supposed to be guaranteed commission-free by the government. The scandal touches the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency (IBRA), which until now had enjoyed a reputation for efficiency and integrity. Moreover, there are allegations that the inner circle of President Habibie was involved in the scandal. World Bank director for Indonesia, Mark Baird, said in August that it was very difficult to provide budget support for Indonesia if the case was not satisfactorily resolved. For the first time the bank has publicly announced that it might hold up lending over a matter of corruption. Yet, the Head of the Indonesian Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) Yudono already admitted that time limitations, legal restrictions under the banking law, BPK's regulation and refusals of several influential people to be interviewed set the limits for BPK and PricewaterhouseCoopers in auditing the bank scandal. Police will now investigate further.

International Herald Tribune, 26 August, Jakarta Post (Indonesia), 15 September 1999

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Indonesia: Nearly \$2 Billion lost to Corruption

The state lost about \$1.9 billion, according to a review by the state audit body of Indonesia's reforestation funds and forest use taxes. The figure would have been twice as high if Indonesia had adopted international accounting standards. Nasution said. About US \$ 2 million in funds collected from forestry companies to pay for reforestation were misused with part of that money going to IPTN, a loss-making airplane company that is the brainchild of President B.J. Habibie, the paper said. Former esidenPrt Suharto, his family and associates have stakes in 27 timber companies and eight industrial forest estates, covering a total of 7.15 million hectares, according to the Ministry of Forestry and Plantations, which says there are "strong indications" the properties were acquired through corruption, collusion and nepotism.

AOL News (Bloomberg), 14 October 1999

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Thailand: Land goes missing

Officials in Thailand have lost a field. They are scouring maps and plans to locate a piece of land that has gone missing in Phuket. An anti-corruption agency alleged that a businessman sold six "fields" (rai in Thai) of land to the provincial electricity authority for 88 million baht (US\$2.2mn). Subsequently, surveys by the Interior Ministry found that "one rai appeared to have disappeared" the Bangkok post reported.

Far Eastern Economic Review, 21 October 1999

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South Asia: Corruption crippling south Asian economies

The UN Development Programme has called a group of five South Asian countries the most corrupt in the world in a report. The 208-page report says it is no coincidence that more than 500 million people continue to live in a state of severe deprivation, in the South Asian region as a whole. It named the countries as Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The report says corruption is draining the economies of their vitality. Citing Pakistan as an example, it calculates that corrupt transactions account for more than 5% of its annual GDP. It states that it is becoming increasingly clear in south Asia that the problem has infected the highest levels.

ABC Online (Australia);Reuters, 2 November 1999

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Vietnam: Death penalty in graft scam

Six people were sentenced to death and others to life imprisonment amid unprecedented publicity surrounding the country's latest show trial. The case involved a graft scam at two large companies.

Far Eastern Economic Review, 19 August 1999

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Europe

Albania: Majko slams politicians for links to criminals

Prime Minister Pandeli Majko said in Tirana on 16 September that unspecified Albanian politicians have "encouraged crime, supporting it not only morally," AP reported. He added that these politicians, abusing their parliamentary immunity, have protected criminals who would normally be convicted under the law. Majko explicitly said that this applied to both his Socialist Party and the opposition Democrats. He said "Before shooting, a policeman has to think first which political clan a given criminal represents." Majko pledged that his government "will work for a definitive and full separation of politics from crime [and attack] crime without any compromise."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Newslines, 17 September 1999

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Bosnia: Up to US \$1 Billion lost in fraud

"The New York Times" of 17 August reported that U.S.-led anti-fraud investigators have found that Serbian, Croatian and Muslim nationalist leaders have stolen up to US \$1 bn from public funds for international aid projects since the Dayton peace agreement was signed in 1995. The report, which exceeds 400 pages and was compiled for the office of the international community's high representative, details widespread corruption. In one incident, a Bosnian bank "lost" US \$20 mn belonging to 10 foreign embassies or aid agencies. In Tuzla, US \$200 mn "disappeared" from the 1999 budget. Few corrupt officials have ever been brought to justice, the report added. Observers note that Bosnia requires massive investments and a vigorous expansion of the private sector to combat rampant unemployment and poverty. According to Jaques Klein, the UN's chief representative in Bosnia, the UN did not lose any money in the scandal. He stressed that the UN's bank is in New York and that UN agencies working in Bosnia closely monitor their finances.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 7 August; 6 September 1999

Bosnia: Presidency Chairman laments the crime of corruption.

Ante Jelavic, the Croatian member and chairman of the Bosnian presidency, said that terrorism, crime, and corruption are the greatest deterrents to the post-war development of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Jelavic said that all those in administrative posts should be held responsible for the situation. He added that various tax rates and excise duties in the two entities that make up the Bosnian Federation have created conditions in which organised crime flourishes.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 28 September 1999

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Bulgaria: Boss linked to Lukanov murder extradited from Prague

A Bulgarian businessman suspected of having ordered the 1996 assassination of former premier Andrei Lukanov was extradited to Bulgaria on Friday from the Czech Republic, national radio reported. The Bulgarian interior ministry confirmed the extradition of Anguel Vassilev, without specifying the charges against him. According to the Standard newspaper, Vassilev is suspected of "hiring Lukanov's assassins and paying them US\$100,000." Czech police said they arrested the entrepreneur in Prague in June 1998, on a warrant issued by Bulgarian authorities, and have detained him there. Vassilev's construction company, Colonnal, was part of the Orion economic group that Bulgarian prosecutors accuse of misappropriating funds from a number of Bulgarian banks. In 1996, Lukanov, then a Socialist deputy, lambasted his own ex-Communist party for giving Orion preferential treatment in contracts. He was gunned down on 2 October 1996 in front of his home in Sofia.

Agence France Presse, 4 September 1999

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Czech Republic: Deputy Parliamentary Chairman offers to resign

Stanislav Gross has asked the Social Democrats (CSSD) for a vote of confidence in his capacity as deputy chairman of the Czech Chamber of Deputies and as chairman of the CSSD parliamentary group, Czech media reported. Gross was responding to accusations in the media that he allowed a private company to pay for his cell phone. Many observers in the media view the affair as part of an internal power struggle within the governing Social Democratic Party.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 24 September 1999

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Germany: Arms scandal rocks Christian Democrats

The scandal began with several million DeutscheMarks' worth of commission for selling 34 Airbuses to Canada and 36 tanks to Saudi Arabia. The merchant, Karlheinz Schreiber, failed to pay the taxes and since 1997, German police hold a warrant for his arrest. In September, the Canadian police apprehended Schreiber in Toronto for allegedly bribing politicians, of which one was a former Prime Minister. Meanwhile in Germany, Schreiber's donation of DM300,000 to the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) has prompted detailed investigation of the files of the CDU's former treasurer (Bundesschatzmeister) Walther Leisler Kiep. Together with the taxation consultant working for the CDU, Horst Weyrauch, they are both suspected of tax evasion. The authorities have linked Schreiber to the sale of the refinery in Leuna, Germany as well as to the sale of the East German chain of gas stations Minol to french Elf Aquitaine and speculate that bribery was involved. Meanwhile, the governing Social Democrats and the Green Party have decided to set up a special parliamentary committee to examine the case.

Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), 2 September 1999; 13/14/15/19 November 1999

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Hungaria: Prime Minister meets CIA, FBI Leaders

Viktor Orban on 28 September held talks in Budapest with CIA head George Tenet and FBI Director Louis Freeh on cooperation between the Hungarian and U.S. secret services, Hungarian media report. The talks focused on organized crime, money laundering by the "Russian mafia," and European security issues. Hungarian Interior Minister Sandor Pinter and Freeh signed an agreement granting the Hungarian police access to FBI databases on stolen cars, boats, and license plates.

Radio Freedom Europe/Radio Liberty, 29 September 1999

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Hungaria: Police raid newspaper in bank case

Hungarian police raided a leading business paper to search for a published list of celebrities reported to have received preferential loans from troubled Postabank, said a journalist from the newspaper Vilaggazdasag who asked not to be identified. "They had a search warrant and they looked for the original of the 'VIP' list", he explained. Vilaggazdasag published the list containing names and loan amounts for more than 100 politicians, entertainers and other members of the Hungarian elite who received loans at bargain-basement rates from Postabank since 1991. The bank had to be bailed out by the state in December at a cost of US\$636.1mn or 1.5% of the country's gross domestic product. The so-called "VIP loans" totalled less than Ft2bn (US\$0.008170 billion). Police spokesman Laszlo Garamvolgyi said that police searched the offices after the editor of the newspaper declined to hand over the original, saying it had been destroyed.

Reuters, 3 September 1999

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Kazakhstan:

Opposition candidates protest against attempted votebuying

The leaders of the Azamat (Citizen) Party said at a press conference in Almaty that the pro-presidential Civic Party has spent almost US\$1mn on its campaign for the 10 October elections to the lower chamber of parliament. Foreign investors provided part of the sum, and the law on elections does not set an upper limit on campaign spending. Independent candidate Erkin Sultanbekov told a separate press conference that some candidates are attempting to win voters by buying computers for local schools or distributing food and clothing to orphanages.

Radio Freedom Europe/Radio Liberty, 28 September 1999

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Kazakhstan:

Parliament Speaker criticises new media law

Addressing an international conference on the media in Almaty on 12 August, the parliament speaker, Marat Ospanov, considered the new media law to contain "many undemocratic norms." The parliament passed the law last month. Ospanov, however, welcomes the postponement of its adoption, according to Interfax. Conference participants agreed on the wording of an appeal addressed to President Nazarbaev, which points to restrictions on media openness and freedom of speech in Kazakhstan, especially with regard to journalists' attempts to spotlight corruption. It also calls on the president to suspend the law so that it can be reformulated to "ensure the observance of the constitutionally-guaranteed principles of openness and the ban on censorship."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 13 August 1999

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Romania:

Controversial politician leaves party

Viorel Catarama announced he is "withdrawing" from the position of National Romanian Party (PNR) chairman. Catarama said his decision was prompted by the desire to avoid "tarnishing" the party's image in the wake of the developments surrounding the Elvila International company, which he heads. Elvila International failed to pay back loans granted by the recently-liquidated Bancorex. Former Romanian Intelligence service chief Virgil Magureanu has been appointed acting PNR chairman. Magureanu said he will not run for the chairmanship at the extraordinary PNR congress that will be called to elect a new party leader. Meanwhile, the head of PNR Ion Menciuc was detained a few days earlier under suspicion of participating in an arms-smuggling ring led by Shimon Naor, an Israeli businessman of Romanian origin.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 6 September 1999

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Russia: Investigators of high-profile cases replaced

Vladimir Minaev, chief of the main investigative department of the Prosecutor-General's Office, told Interfax on 27 August that several of the investigators looking into major cases have been replaced by "more experienced" officers. Among those replaced are investigators looking into the Mabetex case and the case of former St. Petersburg Mayor Anatolii Sobchak. The officials looking into the murder of journalist Dmitrii Kholodov, however, have been kept on the job. Minaev stressed that these shifts do not reduce the personal responsibility of those who launched the investigations.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 30 August 1999

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Russia: Authorities to probe oppositionist's disappearance

The Minsk City Prosecutor's Office has launched an investigation into the disappearance of Viktor Hanchar, deputy speaker of the opposition party Supreme Soviet, and his friend Anatol Krasutski. Belorussian Television echoed allegations made by Ivan Pashkevich, deputy head of the presidential staff, that Hanchar staged his own disappearance to obtain more public attention. Earlier the same day, a group of Supreme Soviet deputies marched to the presidential administration building with a placard reading "Lukashenka! Bring back Hanchar!" Amnesty International, meanwhile, issued a statement saying that Hanchar and Krasutski "may be in solitary confinement where they will be at risk of torture, ill-treatment, or possible 'disappearance'."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 21 September 1999

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Russia/U.S. FBI links Yeltsin elite to money-laundering scandal

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has linked Russian officials close to President Boris Yeltsin to the Bank of New York money laundering scandal, the New York Times reported. The FBI team investigating the money laundering scheme has discovered transactions involving Aleksei Dyachenko, the husband of Yeltsin's daughter, Tatyana, as well as Pavel Borodin, the head of Yeltsin's property management team. U.S. federal officials would not say if Yeltsin's son-in-law had an account at the Bank of New York or if he channelled money through accounts of a company called Benex. According to officials, the amount of money that both Dyachenko and Borodin moved through the Bank of New York was "substantial." "This changes the whole tenor of things," said one U.S. government official. "Now U.S. investigators are saying that top Russian officials are involved". Since a series of reports have disclosed money laundering scandals in Russia in August, investigators are probing allegations that up to US\$15bn were channelled through U.S. banks. According to the allegations, the funds included billions of dollars of Russian mafia money, International Monetary Fund loans to Russia, and funds resulting from corporate embezzlement and graft by Russia's political elite.

Agence France Presse, 21 September 1999

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Russia/U.S.

Corruption may eat away at Russia.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Sunday corruption could "eat the heart out of Russian society" and urged Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to deal with allegations of money laundering and bribery. U.S. and British prosecutors are investigating whether Russian mobsters, businessmen or officials siphoned billions of dollars out of the country and laundered them through accounts at the Bank of New York. Separately, prosecutors are probing reports that a Swiss firm may have bribed Kremlin officials to win hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts to renovate public buildings. According to Berger, Putin admitted that money-laundering took place in Russia as in other nations, and said the United States and Russia should co-operate on the matter although he believed some of the allegations were politically motivated. A Russian team is due to visit the United States to meet U.S. investigators to discuss the corruption probes. Later, the Federal Security Service (FSB) stated that a "working co-operation" had been established with U.S. law enforcement agencies especially looking into the alleged laundering by Russians through the Bank of New York. According to the Duma Deputy Viktor Pokhmelkin, there is little chance that a law on money-laundering will be passed before the State Duma elections in December.

Reuters, 12 September, 1 October 1999; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 21 October 1999

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Serbia:

Daily newspaper shut down

Police sealed off the offices of the independent daily "Glas Javnosti" on 30 September and slapped a 15-day ban on the publication of the newspaper, AP reported. Police said the shutdown was due to "financial irregularities." Editor Vjekoslav Radovic, however, stated that the ban was in connection with the leaflets printed by the paper and distributed at opposition rallies. On 1 October, police also surrounded the offices of the Alliance for Change, reportedly to detain Ceda Jovanovic, the publisher of the leaflet "Promene" (Changes). Jovanovic told Reuters that he and several others had barricaded themselves in the office. He said the attempt to arrest him was "expected."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1 October 1999

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Serbia:

Draskovic says he survived assassination attempt

Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic said that a road accident that he survived on 3 October was "an obvious assassination attempt." Draskovic called it a "pure miracle" that he sustained only slight injuries in the accident. An oncoming truck suddenly swerved into Draskovic's car, about 40 kilometres south-west of

Belgrade, near the village of Petka. The driver of the truck reportedly fled the scene, and witnesses said the truck did not brake. Draskovic is the leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement and served in the government of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic earlier this year. He has refused to take part in opposition rallies, saying they are ineffective, and instead has called for early elections.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 4 October 1999

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Ukraine: Presidential hopefuls to seek fair ballot

Nine presidential candidates--Yevhen Marchuk, Oleksandr Moroz, Oleksandr Tkachenko, Petro Symonenko, Volodymyr Oliynyk, Oleksandr Rzhavskyy, Mykola Haber, Yuriy Karmazin, and Oleksandr Bazylyuk--have signed an agreement on setting up an independent center for counting votes in the 31 October presidential elections. In a 20 September statement, the signatories said they fear the current administration of President Leonid Kuchma will rig the elections. Under the agreement, a computer network will collect voting figures from polling stations and compare it with official data released by the Central Electoral Commission.

Radio Freedom Europe/Radio Liberty NEWSLINE, 21 September 1999

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Ukraine: Parliament moves to exculde Kuchma from Election

The Supreme Council on 22 September voted 286 to 12 to approve speaker Oleksandr Tkachenko's motion urging the Central Electoral Commission to ban President Leonid Kuchma from seeking re-election. The parliament cited alleged violations by Kuchma of the presidential election law. However, the motion is not expected to have any consequences for Kuchma because the election law does not specify how to remove registered candidates from the race. Kuchma commented that the parliament's decision was a result of his competitors' "hysteria and fear" of losing the vote, according to AP. All except one of Kuchma's 14 rivals are lawmakers.

Radio Freedom Europe/Radio Liberty NEWSLINE, 23 September 1999

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December, 1999

TI Internal

The **Nigerian** government collaborated with Transparency International in organising a procurement workshop in Abuja on 13-15 September 1999, bringing together twenty senior Nigerian government officials with six international resource persons from four countries to discuss how to strengthen procurement practice in Nigeria and reduce corruption. There was general agreement that it had been lack of political will which had led to the deterioration of the system and therefore it was hoped that in the new context both the political and public sectors would be playing by the rules. Given that the problem in Nigeria lies more with implementation than in the existing legislation, the meeting identified a number of basic principles and specific recommendations regarding 1) administrative principles; 2) selection of suppliers, contractors and consultants and 3) contract implementation. One of the recommendations was that the TI Integrity Pact should be introduced on a pilot basis into selected major investment projects. The results of the meeting were presented to President Olusegun Obasanjo. The workshop was chaired and co-ordinated by TI Board Member Michael Wiehen and Senior Adviser Neville Linton respectively and the lead address was made by Thomas Thacher of Thacher Associates, New York.

In **Cairo**, Egypt, from 19 to 22 September, a conference on "New Frontiers for Strengthening Administrative Integrity, Transparency and Accountability" was held, which was organised by the Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO) with the co-operation of TI. The Conference was opened by Mr Ibrahim Shihata, former Chief Counsel of the World Bank, Dr Ahmed Ashour, Director of ARADO and Mr Miguel Schloss, TI Executive Director. Excellent presentations were given by the major panelists mentioned above, as well by Sion Assidon, head of the Moroccan chapter; David Murray, Board member of TI UK; Jamal Adimi, National Contact in Yemen and Djillali Hadjadj, National Contact in Algeria. The Conference was a major success, with frank discussions on the difficult state of affairs in some countries. In particular, Mr Shihata summarised how significant the Conference was, it being the first of its kind in the region, and how important it was to improve co-operation between the different Arab states. The Conference concluded with the voicing of a need to establish a regional network to exchange ideas and experiences. The results of the ARADO Conference were followed up with in Durban, and resulted in a joint declaration of Middle East and North African participants and the

creation of such a Network, based in Morocco.

On their way to the Conference in Cairo, Arwa Hassan of TI Secretariat and Sion Assidon, Head of the Moroccan Chapter, travelled to Lebanon and Jordan. In Lebanon, they met with TI Contacts in Beirut, the NGO "No Corruption - the Lebanese Society for Transparency", who were formally launching the Association at a press conference. As well as having numerous discussions with other NGOs, journalists and civil society, they met the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, in order to gain an idea of the government's receptiveness of the work of TI and spoke also to members of the business community and to UNDP in Beirut. In Jordan, they were received by the Advisor to the King Abdullah, and then went on to a variety of other meetings with journalists and individuals keen to begin anti-corruption work in the region. The general sense in both countries was that there is a genuine awareness of the problem by activists and intellectuals and a real sense of urgency to begin structured anti-corruption efforts in the region.

Transparency International has launched a new service that automatically informs subscribers about major changes to the TI website such as

- new press releases
- the TI corruption index
- the TI Newsletter etc.

The [update-announcement](#) service is now available. The service relieves you from the tedious task of checking the TI website for changes - instead, you can simply wait for your automatic e-mail updates. We hope that the new service is of assistance to you - please let us know about any comments or suggestions you may have to further improve it.

TI and the OECD have established a joint database of anti-corruption programmes in Eastern and Central Europe. The SIGMA/TI On-line Directory of Anti-Corruption Programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, details all current anti-corruption programmes and bodies in the region. The Directory is the result of a combined effort by TI and SIGMA, a joint initiative of the OECD and the European Union's Phare Programme, which supports public administration reform efforts in Central and Eastern Europe.

The creation of a new Integrity Award was announced by TI at the close of the 9th IACC. The numerous efforts and initiatives presented throughout the Conference demonstrated the extent of the undertakings in the anti-corruption field. So that these efforts do not go unnoticed, TI felt it is time to reward some of the individuals and organisations who are spearheading them. A newly-established Awards Committee set up by the TI Board of Directors will soon be issuing calls for nominations. It is expected that the first group of award recipients will be selected early in the year 2000. These will be chosen among deserving individuals such as journalists, activists, public administrators or organisations that have furthered the cause of transparency and good governance.

Three new staff have recently joined the Berlin team: Stan Cutzach, Hennie Van Vuuren and Imran Wali Ahmad. Stanislas Cutzach, Assistant Programme Officer, South East Asia Department and part of the preparatory team for the 9th IACC, studied in France and Australia. Stanislas has also been active in a French

prisoner's rights NGO. Hennie van Vuuren, Interim Programme Officer for the Nordic region, FoI and Art for Transparency. Now studying in Berlin, he is a South African graduate and former student activist in that country. Imran Ahmad, Programme Officer for South Asia and China, has much experience in the field of documentary film-making and has been involved with various NGOs in India, dealing primarily with human rights.

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Letters to the Editor

First, I believe that it is a necessary agency, TI. I would like to also reflect that we all are walking on a thin line. Let's say "I", instead of we. What can I do? Perhaps if I take corruption a bit more personally, I would be able to make some changes. Corruption should not be something that I read in the newspapers, and as such, something that does not exist in my life. I just have to trim the "tree of life". I think if I do not laugh at the jokes about corruption, or refuse to accept statements that justify it, I will be able to raise my awareness and that of my neighbor. Thank you. Gracias.

Mary Ann Excalivur

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New Publications

Public sector corruption: An international survey of prevention measures, OECD, 1999 This survey provides an overview of the measures that 15 OECD Member countries (Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland) are currently using to protect their domestic public institutions against corruption, and proving to be effective. Countries were invited to describe the corruption prevention mechanisms they have in place by responding to a list based on mechanisms reported in a previous study in 1996 covering 9 countries (Australia, Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.) For more information about this book contact the OECD online bookshop at www.oecd.org, at the address 2 rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France, tel. 33-1-4524-8200, fax. 33-1-4910-4276

Corrupt Cities. A practical guide to Cure and Prevention by Robert Klitgaard, Ronald MacLean-Abaroa, and H. Lindsey Parris serves as a "must-read for administrative reformers". When city governments become systematically corrupt, they don't work and neither do the usual strategies for municipal reform. The book goes beyond enumerating examples of municipal corruption, a problem of growing concern. Rather, the case studies focus on seemingly hopeless problems and aim for successful reforms. The authors bring to the fore a number of preventive strategies which "can ... stimulate public confidence and participation, and win elections." Orders/Information: Fax: 510-238-8440; www.icspress.com

Political and Administrative Corruption, Proceedings Seminar IAS/TODAIE contains the documentation of the conference held in Ankara in October 1997. Ömer Bozkur and Joao Vargas Moniz edited the opening speeches and the introductory reports of the three sub-themes on power and corruption, legal-political and socio-cultural instruments. It can be ordered from the International Institute of Administrative Science Fax +32-2-537-97-02; www.iasiisa.be

Hidden Fortunes: Drug Money, Cartels and the Elite Banks by Eduardo Varela-Cid discusses the dilemma of the honest being afraid of the corrupt. A former Argentinian congressman and Vice-



President of the Latin American Parliament, the author also elaborates on the banks that provide the financial machinery to empower and expedite the drug trade. 398 pp., US\$22,50, Hudson Street Press, ISBN 0-9669968-0-1.

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Conferences

20-21 January 2000, New York City, USA

governance2000.com held by the Investor Responsibility Research Center at the TIAA.CREF, 730 Third Ave., in New York. The conference will focus on how the high-tech sector will affect and change corporate governance and shareholder activism in the year 2000 and beyond.

For more information, please contact:
Heidi Salkeld (202) 833-0700

8-10 February 2000, Washington, DC

Development Marketplace: Searching for solutions together. Contestants will present their ideas to advance the fight against global poverty. DM2000 Team

For more information please contact:
Arnold Hanuman Phone: (202) 458-0364; fax: (202) 522-2042;
DM2000@worldbank.org

29-31 March 2000 in Bucharest, Romania

The Conference of Central and East European Countries on Fighting Corruption. The organisers view it as a follow-up to Vice-President Gore's February 1999 anti-corruption conference and a bridge to the subsequent global anti-corruption forum in Holland in 2001, and will be hosted and organised by the Romanian Justice Minister.

For more information, please contact the [TI Secretariat](#).

16-19 April 2000 in Hong Kong

10th International Public Procurement Association (IPPA) held at the Island Shangri-La Hotel in Hong Kong. The Conference's themes will focus on the regulations of public procurement and the ethics of procurement.

Contact:

The 10th IPPA Conference Secretariat, phone/fax: 852-2887-6591,
e-mail: ippa@gsd.gcn.gov.hk

27-28 April 2000 in Brisbane, Australia

Asia Pacific Governance 2000: Ethics, Law, Management, Politics

Hosted by Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance and the Griffith Asia Pacific Council, Griffith University. Amongst other things, the Conference will examine how governments can best legislate to account for the rapid demographic and technological changes in the region and how they can ensure that their political reforms will provide for sound public management and a strong civil society.

For more information, please contact:

Susan Lockwood-Lee, fax: +61 7 3875 6634,

e-mail: S.Lockwood-lee@mailbox.gu.edu.au

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TI has grown tremendously since its foundation almost five years ago, triggering - to our delight - more and more interest all around the world in receiving our Newsletter. Up to now, we have sent out the Newsletters to most of our readers free of charge.

However, we are facing ever increasing mailing and production costs which no longer can be met by our scarce budget. Thus we would kindly like to ask the readers to make a contribution to our production and distribution.

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